



# Health Science and Technology Education

The **program mission** of Health Science and Technology (HST) Education in Utah is to provide all students with a seamless education system, through competency-based instruction, culminating in essential life skills, certified occupational skills, and preparation for continued education and/or meaningful employment.

## Careers in Health Science and Technology

Healthcare is experiencing a critical shortage of workers. These shortages are impacting the quality of care throughout the industry. The need and demand for motivated and prepared students is high. Healthcare careers in demand include, but are not limited to:

- Audiologist
- Clinical Laboratory Technologist
- Dental Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Medical Coder
- Nurse Assistant
- Pharmacy Technician
- Physical Therapist
- Physician Assistant
- Radiologic Technologist
- Registered Nurse
- Respiratory Therapist
- Surgical Technologist

For additional information about healthcare careers, including salaries, duties, responsibilities, education requirements, and career videos, visit:

<http://science.education.nih.gov/LifeWorks>  
or [www.acinet.org](http://www.acinet.org)

## Student Leadership Organization

Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) is the student organization for Health Science and Technology Education. HOSA is involved in leadership development, career training, and service projects. The primary focus of HOSA is to increase opportunities in healthcare careers and enhance the delivery of quality healthcare to all people. HOSA provides students with opportunities to attain the knowledge, skills, and leadership characteristics necessary to succeed in a healthcare profession.

- Nationally there are 70,000 members.  
[www.hosa.org](http://www.hosa.org)
- Utah has 1,540 members in 37 chapters.  
[www.hosa.org/state/ut.html](http://www.hosa.org/state/ut.html)

The state HOSA service project is Primary Children's Hospital. The national HOSA service project is the American Cancer Society. Utah is recognized as having the most service hours by a state for the American Cancer Society service project.

## National Recognition

In 2003, fifty-three Utah students placed in the top ten nationally in a variety of healthcare-related competitions, ranking second in the nation. Northridge High School received first place for their Community Awareness Project and Ogden High School placed first in Biomedical Debate. In 2003, the National HOSA President was Joel Arvizo, from Ogden High School.

## Area Health Education Centers

Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Youth Programs provide services to schools and students in rural and urban medically underserved areas. Services are focused on motivating students to pursue careers in healthcare.

[www.ahec.utah.edu](http://www.ahec.utah.edu)

## Career Preparation / Economic Development

Health Science and Technology Education is a program that motivates and prepares students for pursuit of a healthcare profession. The program is based on:

- Employment needs of the health care community.
- National Health Care Skill Standards.
- Individual needs of students.
- Health care leadership and technical skills.
- Post-secondary education requirements.

Utah's educational programs provide students with the necessary knowledge and skills for healthcare career opportunities in many diverse settings.

In 2002-2003, 11,452 students obtained Health Science and Technology Education competency skill certificate assessments with substantial or sufficient skill attainment, with 7,008 demonstrating substantial skill at 80% or above.

During 2001-2002, HST students earned over 1,690 concurrent enrollment credit hours.

## Scholarships Awarded

- 27 from Applied Technology Education
- 3 from Intermountain Health Care
- 3 from Health Occupations Students of America

## Sampling of Courses Offered

American Sign Language  
Biotechnology  
Dental Assisting  
Introduction to Emergency Medical Services  
Exercise Science / Sports Medicine  
Medical Anatomy and Physiology  
Medical Assisting  
Medical Office Administrative Assistant  
Medical Terminology  
Nurse Assisting

## State and Local Partnerships

American Heart Association  
American Red Cross  
Area Health Education Centers  
Health Occupations Students of America  
Intermountain Health Care  
Utah Department of Health  
Utah Hospital Association

**Our vision** is to provide awareness and exploration experiences that motivate students to pursue a profession in healthcare. Once students are motivated, it is our intent to prepare students for continued education and/or employment opportunities in healthcare.

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